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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2926

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION, NGUYEN VAN TUONG, SENT A LETTER ON MORNING OF AUGUST 13 TO CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE (CECC) (TRANSLATION GEING SENT SEPTEL). LETTER DESCRIBES THREE STEPS GVN IS TAKING TO SATISFY THE CANDIDATES' DESIRES IN ORDER FOR THEM TO AGREE TO CONTINUE THE PRESIDENTIAL

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CAMPAIGN. COPIES OF TUONG'S LETTER ALSO SENT TO EACH PRESIDENTIAL SLATE.
TUONG TOLD EMBOFF MORNING OF AUGUST 13 AFTER LETTER HAD GONE OUT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE CANDIDATES WERE SATISFIED WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH GVN WOULD, ACCORDING TO TUONG'S LETTER, FURTHER ASSIST THEM IN THE CAMPAIGN. TUONG ADDED THAT HE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE CANDIDATES WILL RESUME THE CAMPAIGN TOMORROW AUGUST 14 WITH A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

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AT 1500 HOURS AND ON AUGUST 15 WITH A TRIP TO BIEN HOA. A NEW ITINERARY FOR THE BALANCE OF THE CAMPAIGN WILL BE DRAWN P, PRESUMABLE BY THE CECC.
THREE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN BY THE CECC IN ITS LETTER TO TUONG WERE SECURITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND FREEDOM OF VOTERS TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE CANDIDATES. REGARDING SECURITY, TUONG TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH GENERAL LOAN AUGUST 12 AND THAT LOAN HAD ISSUED ORDERS ON AUGUST 11 THAT ADEQUATE SECURITY MUST BE PROVIDED FOR THE CANDIDATES AND THAT POLICE SHOULD "PRESERVE ORDER" AT CAMPIGN MEETINGS. A COPY OF LOAN'S TELEGRAM TO PROVINCIAL POLICE CHIEFS IS BEING FURNISHED TO THE CECC.

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ON THE MATTER OF TRANSPORTATION, TUONG SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION THUAN WHO AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AN AIR VIETNAM DC-3. HOWEVER, THUAN STIPULATED THAT PAYMENT MUST BE MADE FOR THE USE OF THE AIRCRAFT AND, ACCORDING TO TUONG, THE CANDIDATES HAVE AGREED TO PAY FOR THEIR TRANSPORTATION OUT OF THE 3.8 MILLION PIASTERS PROVIDED EACH SLATE FOR CAMPAIGN EXPENSES.
TUONG FURTHER STATED THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE THIRD CONDITION, HE SENT A MESSAGE AUGUST 12 TO ALL PROVINCE CHIEFS THAT THEY MUST ASSURE ALL CITIZENS THE RIGHT TO ATTEND CAMPAIGN MEETINGS. HE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THESE ARE NOT NEW INSTRUCTIONS BUT THEY ARE BEING RE-ISSUED IN ORDER TO GET THE CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY AGAIN.
TUONG ALSO REITERATED THE POINT HE HAD MADE IN HIS LETTER TO THE CANDIDATES OF AUGUST 11 (SAIGON 2868) WHICH NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO THE ELECTORAL LAW AND TO ACCEPTED PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THE ELECTORAL PROCEDURES ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT THE CAMPAIGN ITSELF CAN BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NO ONE BUT THE CANDIDATES THEMSELVES. HE THEN SAID, "YOU KNOW, THE WHOLE PROBLEM IS A MATTER OF FACE." THE CANDIDATES HAD DEMANDED

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A REPLY BY BOTH GENERALS THIEU AND KY THE FOLLOWING DAY AND

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SINCE THIS INVOLVED THE "FACE" OF THE TWO GENERALS, IT WAS TUONG WHO WOROTE THE RESPONSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CANDIDATES' "FACE" MUST ALSO BE PRESERVED AND, TUONG SAID, HIS TWO LETTERS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THAT.
HE PRIVATELY CHIDED THE CANDIDATES FOR THEIR ATTITUDE AND SAID THAT SOME OF THEM HAD AT ONE TIME OR OTHER ASKED HIM TO DO THINGS WHICH WERE NOT WITHIN HIS POWER TO DO. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT PHAN KHAC SUU HAD CALLED HIM ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO SUGGEST THAT THE SENATE ELECTIONS BE POSTPONED A FEW WEEKS. EARLIER, SUU HAD ASKED TUONG TO RELAX REQUIREMENTS ON THE POTENTIAL SENATE CANDIDATES SO THAT ALL OF THE ORIGINAL 60 SLATES MIGHT BE ACCEPTED. TUONG SAID THAT HIS REPLY TO SUU WAS THAT THE ELECTORAL LAW, WRITTEN BY THE ASSEMBLY OF WHICH SUU IS CHAIRMAN, PREVENTED HIM FROM DOING THESE THINGS.
ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ELECTION OF A CIVILIAN AS PRESIDENT, TUONG REPLIED THAT A CIVILIAN HAS "A CHANCE" BUT THAT THE CHANCE WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT ONLY IF ALL OR MOST OF THE TICKETS WITHDREW TOWARD THE END OF THE CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF HUONG WHOM TUONG CONSIDERS TO BE THE MOST POPULAR AMONG

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THE TEN CIVILIANS. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PLAN FOR THE CANDIDATES TO WITHDRAW IN THAT FASHION.
COMMENT: TUONG'S LETTER WILL HOPEFULLY BE THE LAST EPISODE OF THE "DONG HA" AFFAIR. IN HIS LETTER, TUONG, SPEAKING FOR THE GVN, IS MUCH MORE RESPONSIE TO THE OVERALL PROBLEM THAN IN HIS FIRST LETTER. THERE THUS APPEAR TO BE NO FURTHER OBSTACLES TO RESUMING THE CAMPAIGN. WHAT WILL FOLLOW THEREAFTER IN THE CAMPAIGN IS LESS PREDICTABLE. BUNKER

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